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## *JUNONIA ERIGONE* (CRAMER) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) RECORDED FROM AUSTRALIA

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### Abstract

A single female *Junonia erigone* (Cramer) is recorded from Rimbija Island, Northern Territory. It does not differ significantly from Timor specimens.

### Introduction

*Junonia erigone* (Cramer) is known from many Indonesian islands including southern Sumatra, Java, Timor, Wetar, Tanimbar, Celebes, Moluccas, Seram, Waigeo, Kai and Aru. It is also known from New Guinea, Fergusson Island and the Trobriand Islands. Eleven subspecies have been described.

In January 1977 a single female was taken on Rimbija Island, Northern Territory. The only previous record of *J. erigone* from Australia is by Roepke (1938) who listed Australia in the distribution of *J. erigone* but failed to cite material on which his list was based.

### Material

A single female labelled "11.01S 136.45E Rimbija Is., Wessel Islands, N.T. 18 Jan. 1977 E. D. Edwards", in the Australian National Insect Collection.

### Description

*Female* (Figs 1 and 2). Above:— Head, thorax, abdomen pale brown; antennae dark brown. Fore wing dark brown, basal third with pale brown suffusion, markings pale orange, eyespots black surrounded with orange some with blue centres, three subterminal suffused bands of pale brown. Hind wing dark brown, basal half with pale brown suffusion, eyespots black surrounded by orange and with blue centres, three subterminal suffused bands pale brown.

Beneath:— Head, thorax, abdomen pale ochre; antennae brown, terminal half of club black. Fore wing various shades of brown, reddish suffusion basally and terminally, mauve suffusion towards apex, grey towards dorsum, markings ochre, eyespots black surrounded with orange. Hind wing various shades of brown, mauve suffusion basally, a dark median suffusion, and reddish suffusion towards termen, eyespots black dots.

Length of fore wing 27 mm.

*Male.* The male is unknown from Australia. Elsewhere the male of this species has a pattern similar to that of the female, but the apex of the fore wing is more produced.

### Discussion

*J. erigone* may be distinguished from *J. hedonia zelima* (Fabricius) by the presence of pale orange markings and a larger eyespot between  $CuA_1$  and  $CuA_2$  on the fore wing and by the much less produced tornus of the hind wing.

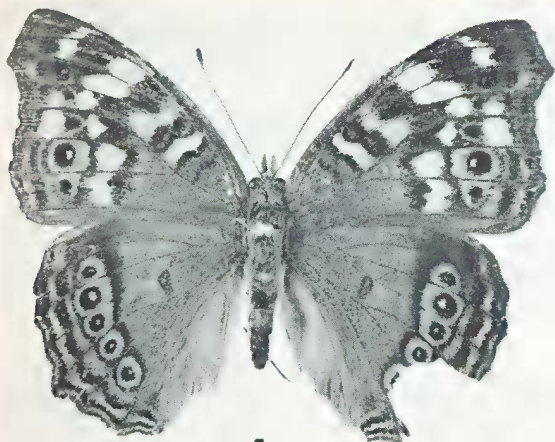
Usually the three Australian species *villida* Fabricius, *orithya* L. and *hedonia* L. have been referred to *Precis* Hübner. Lesse (1952) recognized that the male genitalia of *octavia* Cramer, the type species of *Precis*, are very different from those of the Australian species. The Australian species, including *erigone*, have male genitalia similar to those of *evarete* Cramer (= *lavinia* Cramer), the type species of *Junonia* Hübner, and should therefore be reassigned to that genus. *Precis* and *Junonia* were described simultaneously and, even if regarded as congeneric, *Junonia* has precedence owing to the use of *Junonia* by Doubleday and Westwood (1846-50) as first revisers (Cowan, 1970).

The specimen from Rimbija was taken resting, with wings spread, on a leaf at the margin of monsoon forest belonging to the "Monsoon Forest Formation" of Specht (1958). The life history is very briefly recorded by Roepke (1938) who gives the Javanese name of the foodplant as "deroendoeng". Related species feed on plants of the family Acanthaceae of which eleven species are recorded from the Darwin and Gulf region of the Northern Territory by Chippendale (1972). Photographs of the Australian specimen have been compared with specimens in the British Museum (Natural History) and differ from specimens from Kai, Aru, Tanimbar and New Guinea but do not differ significantly from specimens from Timor. As populations on adjacent islands often differ it is suggested that the Northern Territory specimen is a vagrant from Timor or belongs to a population recently established by a vagrant from Timor. However, until further collecting is done in the Northern Territory, the status of the species in Australia must remain in doubt.

The subspecific name *walkeri* Butler is available for the Timor population and the Australian specimen is tentatively assigned to it.

### Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Mr R. I. Vane-Wright for comparing photographs with specimens in the British Museum (Natural History), to Mr J. Green for the photographs and to Dr I. F. B. Common for assistance in various ways.



1



2

Figs 1 & 2. *Junonia erigone*, Rimbija Island, Wessel Islands, N.T.: (1) upperside; (2) underside.

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